

has no control, and which is disengaged by Boards and Committees appointed by the State Legislature. Both amounts are included in the appropriation, which leads to the misapprehension that the city authorities are responsible for the annual increase in such rates. Classes I & II are purely municipal, and is in consequence their responsibility. Justice and is in consequence their responsibility, however, were used intended to give each rate a separate, or at least separate the tax from that of the County, and imposing a separate rate of tax for each. It would then appear at what time the greatest increase occurred annually, and our citizens could then place the responsibility where it properly belongs.

Your Committee are actuated solely by the desire to exhibit, in a manner to be readily and easily understood, the gross impropriety before practiced toward the Corporation by the Legislature of this State. In every relation, except to the two Governmental departments, the State, and the State Government would exercise the power and property of this, the principal seat of the State, the largest and most populous on the continent, and the business center of the world.

When the State was governed by the late Mr. Gilmer, and the other great men and master minds that crowded around him, he declined in former times, and raised in the condition of a province to the rank position of the City of New York, the State, and the Government would have been the greatest and most populous in the world.

On the contrary, the members of the Executive Council, in the course of their deliberations, and counseled by more of equal ability, or at least equal integrity, in the Legislature, encouraged and fostered the growth and prosperity of the people, and especially of the City of New York, the city that then did, and still does, pay into the State, one-half of all the entire taxes for State purposes—and many of the greatest works of the State were decided simply with that object in view. They observed the most regard for the chartered rights, privileges and immunities granted to it by the Legislature, and for the general welfare of the people of the city, and the State, and the State government, and for the safety and security of their county and town authorities, and the power and property of their respective cities, towns, and villages.

In the primitive and middle stages of our existence as a State, party advancement was secondary to the best interests of the people, the legislators of those days, always recognized this as a principle, and entirely ignored legislation of a local character, or any other legislation of a temporary or momentary nature.

In these latter days, party advancement is the primary object in our State Legislature, to the neglect of the entire welfare and property of the people, and especially of the City of New York, the city that then did, and still does, pay into the State, one-half of all the entire taxes for State purposes—and many of the greatest works of the State were decided simply with that object in view. They observed the most regard for the chartered rights, privileges and immunities granted to it by the Legislature, and for the general welfare of the people of the city, and the State, and the State government, and for the safety and security of their county and town authorities, and the power and property of their respective cities, towns, and villages.

It is now evident, that the State Government, in its daily constituted authorities, the general welfare of the entire State suggests their sole attention, and the care and protection of their county and town authorities, and the power and property of their respective cities, towns, and villages.

The conclusions of your Committee concerning the amount of the annual expenses of the City Government for the current year, differ but slightly from the estimates submitted by the Comptroller.

The sum of \$100,000 is totally independent of the city authorities. Yet they are responsible for the legal ignorance and degradation of our public men, and such a state of things, if continued, will further degrade and diminish the status of every other and equally important trust of a purely local character. But the whole is as unjust as it is false. We people on the face of the earth are better equipped for the discharge of the duty for the enjoyment of the civil and government, than our species of puny edifice can comprehend the administration of the world.

Your Committee, in presenting these facts to the offices of the Common Council, in order that they may be made public, and that our citizens may perceive the whole, perpetrated under the combination of such practices, are actuated by the most mercenary or unworthy motives. They do it more in sorrow than in anger. They feel that every such interference, even that of the Legislature, based on the pretended right of distribution, or the control of the people's money, overrode the rights of the citizens.

The fact is that these extractions and impositions have not been more strenuous, or rather, their operation has not been more successful, than in former years.

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